CLAIMS

I Claim:

1	1.	A member accessible information system for managing member information, and
2	selectively providing member information to individual members, said system	
3	compi	rising:
4		a plurality of remotely connected computers connected together over a network,
5	memb	ers accessing member information over ones of said remotely connected computers
6	1	means for maintaining said member information;
7		means for searching through member information responsive to an information
8	request from a member; and	
9		means for selectively allowing members to request said member information.
1	2.	A member accessible information system as in claim 1, wherein the means for
2	selecti	ively allowing members to request member information comprises:
3		login means for receiving a member identification and corresponding password
4	and, p	roviding a logging-in member portions of said member information responsive to a
5	reques	st.
1	3.	A member accessible information system as in claim 1, wherein the means for
2	maintaining member information comprises:	
3		a webserver storing static content information and serving said static content to
4	members;	
5		an appserver storing applications for use by members and selectively executing
6	stored applications responsive to selected requests from members;	
7		a database server storing said member information and also storing procedures
Q	and fo	nctions said database server managing said stored member information procedures

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9	and functions and providing selected portions of said member information responsive to		
10	appropriate requests from authorized members; and		
11	a policy server storing user security profiles and managing said stored user		
12	security profiles, each of said members' security profile indicating a level of authorization		
13	of a corresponding member.		
1	4. A member accessible information system as in claim 1, wherein the means for		
2	searching member information comprises:		
3	a search engine having full text indexing and searching capability for searching		
4	member supplied documents stored in said system; and		
5	a crawler continuously searching and indexing searched said member supplied		
6	documents,		
7	said search engine searching and retrieving documents indexed by said crawler		
8	responsive to member requests.		
1	5. A member accessible information system as in claim 1, wherein said system		
2	further comprises a personalization server, said personalization server recording		
3	characteristics of content viewed by members and personalizing content, personalized		
4	content automatically being made available to corresponding members thereafter.		
1	6. A member accessible information system as in claim 1, said system further		
2	comprising an ad server providing advertising content to members.		

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A member accessible information system as in claim 6, wherein said ad server

manages ad content scheduling, serving and tracking.

1 8. A member accessible information system as in claim 1 further comprising: 2 billing means for tracking member use, deriving member bills from member use 3 and billing individual ones of said members. 1 9. A member accessible information system as in claim 8, said billing means 2 collecting revenues from billed members. A member accessible information system as in claim 1, wherein members of said 1 10. 2 system are members of a common industry. A member accessible information system as in claim 10, wherein members of said 11. 1 2 common industry include suppliers, manufacturers and customers. 12. A member accessible information system as in claim 11, wherein said common 1 2 industry is the food industry. 1 13. A member accessible information system as in claim 1, wherein member 2 information is stored on member computers, member computers being ones of said 3 remotely connected computers. 1 14. A member accessible information system as in claim 1, wherein at least a portion 2 of said member information is located on a central computer with said database server. 15. 1 An information management system for managing product information 2 distribution, said system comprising: 3 a central storage storing product information for products related to a common

industry;

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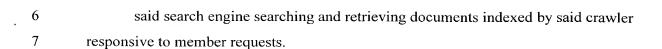
5	a web server interfacing members with selected product information stored in said		
6	central storage;		
7	a security policy server, selecting product information available to each member;		
8	and		
9	a specification storage storing specifications for ones of said products, stored said		
10	specifications being selectively provided to ones of said interfacing members.		
1	16. An information system as in claim 15, further comprising:		
2	an app server storing applications for use by members and selectively executing		
3	stored applications responsive to selected member requests from said web server;		
4	and		
5	a policy server storing user security profiles and managing said stored user		
6	security profiles, each of said members' security profile indicating a level of authorization		
7	of a corresponding member.		
1	17. An information system as in claim 16, wherein said central storage is on a		
2	database server, said database server storing and managing member information,		
3	procedures and functions, and providing selected stored information responsive to		
4	appropriate requests from authorized members.		
1	18. An information system as in claim 17 further comprising a personalization server		
2	recording characteristics of content viewed by members and personalizing content,		
3	personalized content automatically being made available to corresponding members		
4	thereafter.		
1	19. An information system as in claim 18 further comprising an ad server providing		
2	advertising content to members.		

2 tracking ad content. 1 21. An information system as in claim 1 further comprising a billing unit tracking 2 member use, deriving member bills from member use and billing individual ones of said 3 members. 1 22. An information system as in claim 21, said billing unit collects revenues from 2 billed members. 1 23. An information system as in claim 21, wherein members of said system are 2 members of the food industry. 1 24. An information system as in claim 23, wherein said food industry members 2 include suppliers, manufacturers and customers. 1 25. A member accessible information system as in claim 21, wherein one or more 2 specifications are stored on member computers, member computers being remotely 3 connected to said information system, the location of remotely stored said specifications 4 being stored on said information system. 1 26. An information system as in claim 25 further comprising: 2 a search engine having full text indexing and searching capability for searching 3 member supplied documents stored in said central storage; and 4 a crawler continuously searching and indexing searched said member supplied 5 documents,

An information system as in claim 19, said ad server scheduling, serving and

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- 1 27. An information system as in claim 25, wherein one or more specifications are stored in said central storage.
- 1 28. An information system as in claim 21, wherein one or more specifications are 2 stored in said central storage.